

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LR 18

the constitution in a hurry, what's the quickest time frame we could change it under this bill, under the provisions of this resolution?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: If...if...if you take the absolute worst, and let's say that the crisis occurs shortly after the general election, that means that you're then going to go 18 months before the next primary. You would have to have a special election in between that period of time. That's the worst it can get.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. And I know it's an evening. I scheduled this for one reason and, quite frankly, is that I didn't want it to get in the way of other things. And just because it's quiet and because it's been a long day, this is still real tough stuff, but, I'll tell you, your constitution's for sale. And you can stand up here all you want to, and I'm looking around for faces that were out fighting Initiative 413 this last time around, because it's a whole lot easier for everybody to complain about, when you have to go out and do that, who's going to do that? There were a few that did do that. That constitution's for sale and you're not going to like what they're going to do. And, Senator Dierks, your district's the...your district is the most at risk district in this state because you can't defend yourself. You don't have the money to go defend yourself. And all those people that want to go out, we're not doing away with the right to petition your government. That isn't even being touched here. What's at stake is how easy is it to it and how much do you want to give up to change that constitution? And I'm telling you, every time you let those petition processes work by people who are not grass roots, because I'm not talking about the grass-roots people. Those people are so well-intentioned and they're going to win. But every time you let people with big money start to erode, and they may not win this time but they're going to win, if you have some respect for this institution you're going to